

The Role of the Private Sector in Family Planning Provision and Use: Past, Present, and Future



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PANELISTS

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Why private sector?



- Almost 40% of women in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia go to private providers for FP.
- The private sector offers valuable resources including:
 - ✦ skilled health work force
 - ✦ financing
 - ✦ infrastructure needed to deliver services
- Tapping into the private sector can help relieve the demands placed on the public sector and substitute for the public sector where it is simply not present.
- Achieving our goals requires expanding into all service delivery channels

Who are private providers?



- Private providers include:
 - Doctors
 - Nurses
 - Midwives
 - Paramedics
 - Pharmacists
 - Traditional Practitioners
 - Retail outlets



Private Ob/Gyn, Dhaka, Bangladesh

“More than two million people live in Uttara area but no significant public facilities are operating here... As such, irrespective of economic status, clients are seeking services from the private facilities.”



Private Chemist, New Delhi, India

“My shop is open 20 hours in a day and since it’s close to some of the large hospitals here the demand is very high... We stock emergency pills, condoms, injectables, OCP and POP pills. This area has a heavy demand for condoms.”



Private Doctor and Clinic Owner, Lagos, Nigeria

“...Most medical schools do not give thorough training on family planning... we had no thorough formal training in family planning.” Now we have training and do outreach to the community.



Paramedic, New Delhi, India

I belong to the community here. People have known me for long. They call me 'Didi' (meaning sister)... Most women from slums here are uneducated and even fear meeting a provider. My presence makes them comfortable when visiting a provider the first time."



Private Nurse, Dhaka, Bangladesh

“Private sector services are available in our community, but not public sector. If someone wants to avail of public facility service they should travel 20 km. and spending cost and almost whole day for travel. That’s why people irrespective of socio-economic class are seeking services from private sector.”



Private Doctor and Clinic Owner, Lagos, Nigeria

“I counsel couples in my community on family planning. I offer many services, so I also talk to them about FP when they come in for other services. They come to me because over the years, I have earned their trust. I am close to their homes and they know I provide quality services.”



Panelists



Jay Gribble, Abt Associates, SHOPS Project
Trends in the Private Sector as a Source for Modern Contraception

Marguerite Farrell, USAID
Past Experiences and Future Directions:
USAID Investment in Private Sector Family Planning

Michael Holscher, MSI
MSI: Leveraging the Private Sector for Maximum Impact and Reach